

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2010

In attendance: Gene Cordes, John Berry and Cheryl Rowell

The Fremont Energy Committee meeting started at approximately 9:10 AM on the first floor of the Town Hall. Gene Cordes welcomed John Berry to the meeting and related the goals and accomplishments of the committee so far.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ARRA grants have been awarded through the OEP. The announcements were made on March 12th. Fremont was awarded grants for two out of the three proposals submitted. The projects that were funded include the Energy Audits for Ellis School and the Safety Complex and the solar hot water system for the Safety Complex.
2. There has not been any communication yet from the OEP, but the Committee will have to act when those are received. There was an announcement on the OEP website.
3. The PV panels have been installed on the Safety Complex. Freedom Renewable completed the work. Students from Ellis in the 4th and 8th grades visited the project site and were given overviews of solar power. Brian Pellerin answered questions from teachers and students.
4. There was discussion about a ribbon cutting ceremony for the solar project. Suggestions include having the event on a Saturday morning and inviting Brian Pellerin (co-owner of Freedom Renewable), Walmart Distribution, NEGREF, Energy Committee, and the selectmen. It would be great if Brian Pellerin could speak. The selectmen have been asked to attend, but we do not have a commitment from anyone yet (date dependent).
5. Green Mountain Coffee and Ashoka's Changemakers \$5000 grant. Cheryl had spoken with Dawn about this and she had mentioned applying for it. Cheryl will follow up to see if there are additional possibilities for the FEC to also apply for something in addition to the school.

Grant Details: Called Revelation to Action: **Green Mountain Coffee** and Ashoka's Changemakers have come together to find and help fund the most innovative ideas that strengthen and improve communities in **Maine, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut or Massachusetts.**

Enter or nominate innovations from now until April 21, 2010. The best innovations will be awarded prizes totaling USD \$50,000, and nominators are also eligible for prizes. Learn how to [get involved](#)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Members discussed replacement of the town hall heating system with alternative technologies. The boiler will need to be updated in the near future. High efficiency propane, co-generation and geothermal are potential heating systems that could be used. John Berry also suggested to look into a trash to syn-gas system for the town – there may be grant money available for this type of system.
2. The Energy Committee page of the website needs to be updated. Gene will work to update tax credit information on the website, while removing outdated info. If members have any recommendations they should make suggestions.
3. There was discussion about tracking FEC accomplishments and the energy data for the town. Cheryl is already working to collect some data from 2008 for Tim McDonald for the Clean Air Cool Planet grant. She will collect additional data and John Berry offered to compile it in a table. It will be important to note whether the changes that have been made have affected the energy use. The information should be shared with the residents of Fremont.
4. The Capital Improvement Plan is being updated. If there are any additions for capital improvements needed for the next six years (from the Energy Committee) they should be sent to the Planning Board.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, April 19 at 8 PM on the first floor of the Town Hall.